



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE**

102 Governor St., Rm LL20 Richmond, VA 23219 • (804) 771-2493  
Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



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Contact: Herman Ellison, Director

Number 25

Released: December 1, 2010

## USDA TO SURVEY CATTLE OPERATIONS IN JANUARY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is calling on nearly 50,000 cattle operations nationwide to report the latest and most accurate data on cattle inventories and calf production.

“The January Cattle Survey provides Virginia producers the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of data on cattle” said Herman Ellison, director of the Virginia Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). “In Virginia, we’ll be contacting about 1000 operations in order to measure trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations.”

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate, NASS offers the option of responding via telephone, mail, online or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

“However producers choose to respond, they are providing an important service to the cattle industry and to U.S. agriculture as a whole,” Ellison said. “Their responses will be compiled with those of their fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of the state of U.S. cattle production.”

The information is a critical decision-making tool for the cattle industry, he explained. “For instance, it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export,” Ellison said.

Survey results will be published in NASS’s Cattle report, on January 28, 2011. The report will provide national-level estimates of total inventory, beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves and number of calves born during the previous year. In addition, NASS’s *Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations* report, also published in February, will include data on the number of operations with cattle and calves, and percent of inventory by herd size.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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**National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service**

**USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office**

P. O. Box 1659

Richmond, VA 23218-1659

Phone (804) 771-2493

Fax (804) 771-2651

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Address Service Requested